

NBC said last week its Monday night lead-off program, ALF, would move to Saturday at 8 p.m., bouncing 227 into hiatus, effective March 3. *My Two Dads*, returning from hiatus, slips into Monday 8 p.m. slot effective March 5. NBC Entertainment President Brandon Tartikoff said last week that over next two months "close to a dozen" new and returning programs would be scheduled in prime time, forcing "temporary hiatus" of some of network's more successful shows. Upcoming new hour-long programs include: *Nasty Boys* and *Shannon's Deal*, spun off from widely-viewed made-for-TV movies from season. Upcoming new half-hours include: *A Family For Joe* (starring Robert Mitchum), *Wings*, *Working Girl*, *Down Home, FM* and *Carol [Burnett] & Company*. Programs returning from hiatus include, *Ann Jillian*, *Hardball* and *13 East*, sitcom from last summer about nurses at work and play.

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Fox television network revenue doubled during six months ending Dec. 31, 1989, over same period year earlier, according to just-released financial results of parent company News Corp. Company's director of investor relations, Don Galletly, said reason for doubling included fact that "ratings across the schedule were generally higher and we had a lot better [ratings] momentum going into the last upfront selling season than we did during the previous upfront." Galletly also said that company introduced Monday night schedule in September. News Corp. said Fox-owned TV stations showed "considerable improvement particularly in New York, Los Angeles and Washington."

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Just day after being named president-CEO of **ITC Entertainment Group** on Feb. 14, **Chris Gorog**, who moves into position after resignation of Jerry Leider, **announced that studio's long-form production unit is for sale** to allow ITC to concentrate capital resources on syndication and theatrical acquisition businesses. ITC spokesman conceded that Marble Arch Television unit was losing money producing telefilms and miniseries, stating "these days, studios produce made-for more for prestige than profit." He added that Leider's "amicable departure" was not related to ITC's situation in long-form production business.

The little Foxes

Fox Broadcasting Company affiliates will be returning contracts this week for carriage of Fox Children's Network, two-hour weekday and three-hour Saturday morning block of animated programming. Seeking to clarify how Seattle affiliate KCPO-TV (BROADCASTING, Feb. 12) is going to schedule Children's Net while meeting a contractual obligation to carry Buena Vista Television's Disney Afternoon two-hour package next season, Preston Padden, senior vice president, affiliates, reaffirmed that it is FBC's position to allow KCPO "flexibility" to air at least half of The Disney Afternoon at 4-5 p.m.

Peter Pan, in all probability, will be the only half-hour ready next season for Children's Net, so KCPO (as is the case with other Disney incumbents) will have time slot availabilities for Disney's established half-hour strips Chip 'n' Dale's Rescue Rangers and Ducktales. In a letter to FBC President Jamie Kellner, KCPO Co-owner and Program Director Bob Kelly did not specify how the remaining Disney Afternoon programming (Gummi Bears and Talespin) would be inserted in the early fringe slots for 1990-91, although writing, "I assume that our broadcast of this year's Fox half-hour at 3-4 p.m. will present no problem. Kelly and KCPO General Manager Roger Ottenbach did not return calls to further clarify schedule plans for next season.

Production addition at Television City

CBS is looking to expand its in-house production presence. Last week it announced plans to add two state-of-the-art studios to its Television City production facilities in Los Angeles. The studios, which will cost more than \$15 million, will be used primarily to produce comedies and, to a lesser extent, for daytime production on weekends and during hiatus periods. The network expects the studios to be ready in 18 months.

The announcement of the expansion comes during a time when the future of the financial interest and syndication rules is in question, and repeal of the rules would allow networks to produce for and participate in syndication.

The new facilities will be 50% bigger than the existing studios, and will employ an additional 70 people. In addition to the studios, there will be office space for two production companies.

CBS has not produced a prime time series in the Television City studio since Archie Bunker's Place in 1983.

Published reports and industry rumors that billionaire John Kluge and his Metromedia Inc. partner Stuart Subotnick, are trying to sell their controlling interest in **Orion Pictures Corp.** to oil magnate and former studio owner Marvin Davis have fueled **surging New York Stock Exchange prices for independent Hollywood studio.** Price of Orion stock closed last Wednesday (Feb. 14) at \$18 $\frac{1}{2}$ per share, but as of last Thursday had jumped 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$21.75 on heavy trading of 89,200 shares. Kluge and Subotnik (through Metromedia) currently hold 15.3 million shares of common stock (valued at over \$320 million) or 71% controlling interest in Orion Pictures. Orion spokesman only issued this statement: "At the request of the New York Stock Exchange, Orion Pictures Corp. [OPC]...does not know of any corporate development that would account for the unusual activity in the company's common stock." Spokesman added that he had no knowledge of reports that Wall Street investment firm Goldman, Sachs & Co. has been retained to handle purported sale to Davis. Kluge and Davis were unavailable for comment.

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FCC denied request by three petitioners to reverse its decision of last year to mandate implementation of National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) AM radio emission standard. In spring 1989, commission ordered all AM stations to convert to emission standard by June 30, 1989. At same time, it said that stations that converted to less expensive NRSC audio standard by deadline would be considered in compliance with emission standard until June 30, 1994. FCC denied request, it said, because petitioners provided no new evidence to their claims that there has been insufficient research of interference on AM band.

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Council of Better Business Bureaus Inc. has dismissed Community Antenna Television Association's complaint that broadcasting industry's Free TV advertising campaign is "false and misleading." In Feb. 2 letter to CATA President Steve Effros, Mary-Jane Raphael, senior VP, national advertising division, CBBB, said broadcasting campaign is outside purview of organization. She did not address substance of complaint. CBBB's guidelines bar it from handling cases involving noncommercial advertising and political and issue advertising, Raphael said.

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News media and public were barred by court order from attending former President Reagan's videotaped deposition given in U.S. district court in Los Angeles on Friday (Feb. 16) in Iran contra trial of John Poindexter. Reagan's national security adviser. U.S. District Judge Harold Greene, in response